

Be A Naturalist

Phenology—Nature Notes

When I was still in school, I lived near the Quarry Hill Nature Center in Rochester, Minnesota. Mr. Buck was the naturalist. He led all the school programs, and taught us how to identify trees and took us on hikes to the top of the hill by the Center. We always had so much fun and loved our time learning with Mr. Buck!

One of the many lessons that stuck with me was **PHENOLOGY**. It's a big word that basically means keeping track of every day signs of the changing seasons and their relationship to weather and climate. For example, I saw snow buntings but there was also still a young loon on the lake. The weather was 64 degrees yesterday (warm for November) but snow is on the way this Friday. Must be late fall in Minnesota.

What things did you notice today that tells you winter is on the way? Keep track of signs of the season you notice as you go about your day. Write it down in a calendar or journal. It can be once a week or every day! As you keep track through the years, you can compare notes. For example, what day did the ice go off the lake last year? Phenology can be simple. Start by just writing down a few words about what you saw today. If you feel artistic, add a few drawings. Whatever you like! It's your personal phenology journal! Enjoy....and thanks Mr. Buck!

Sample Phenology Entry:

NATURE NOTES (Phenology)

What animals did you see today?

Red Squirrel

What were the animals doing?

Running, picking up pine cones.

What is the weather today?

Temperature? **57°**

Winds? **Light**


Forecast? **Warm today but snow in 2 days!**

Did you notice any plants or trees?

Red Pine

Date: **11/15/16**

This squirrel picked up the cone & ran with it in his mouth!



Draw a picture here!

NATURE NOTES (Phenology)

What animals did you see today?

What were the animals doing?

What is the weather today?

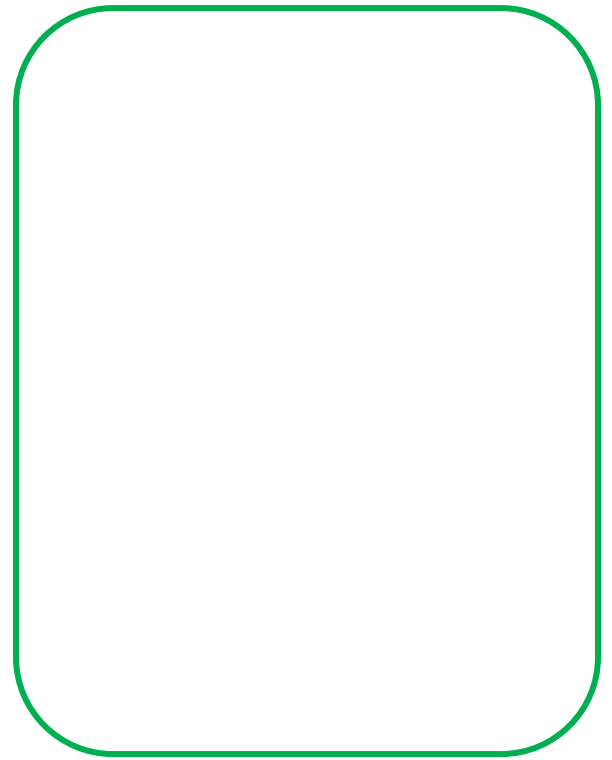
Temperature?

Winds?

Forecast?

Did you notice any plants or trees?

Date: _____



Draw a picture here!

NATURE NOTES (Phenology)

What animals did you see today?

What were the animals doing?

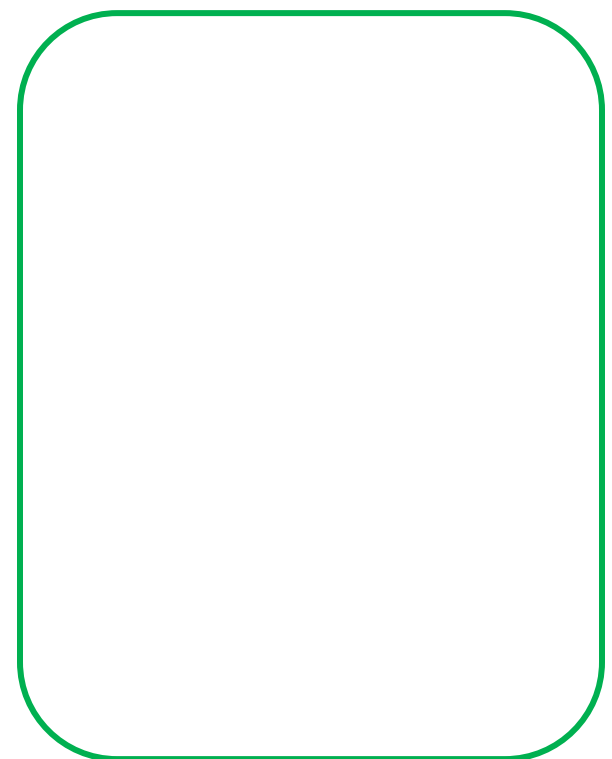
What is the weather today?

Temperature?

Winds?

Forecast?

Did you notice any plants or trees?



Draw a picture here!



Chippewa National Forest